

**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND  
TRANSPORTATION  
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC  
WORKS  
SMALL BUSINESS AND  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

June 6, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U. S. Department of Transportation  
400 Seventh Street, SW, Suite 10200  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I write to request your full consideration for the application submitted by the Mid-America Transportation Center (MATC), located at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, for U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) funding for the Region VII University Transportation Center.

MATC's vision includes a focus on developing new knowledge, innovative solutions, and the next generation of transportation professionals to sustain the U.S. intermodal transportation system. MATC has formed a strong partnership with its consortium members who share MATC's commitment to this vision. By sharing DOT funding nearly equally among the four states of the region, MATC has demonstrated a commitment to cooperation and collaboration. In addition, MATC has developed partnerships with over 40 external private and public sector sponsors, who each provide substantive material support. MATC's partners include: Union Pacific Railroad, Werner Enterprises, Iteris, and all four Region VII state transportation agencies.

As you know, the Region VII transportation system is experiencing increasing volumes of freight transportation. In light of increasing multi-modal freight volumes, enhancing safety on our roads, highways, bridges, and railways must remain a top priority. MATC has chosen "promoting safety", one of the recently-passed Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act's six research priority areas, as its main focus.

Over half of MATC's funding is dedicated to students in the region. Since 2006, over 1,104 graduate students and over 470 undergraduate students in 18 separate academic disciplines have received funding through MATC. Over 6,600 K-12 students have also participated in MATC's after-school program. MATC is dedicated to DOT's vision of developing the next generation of our nation's transportation workforce.

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MATC is to be commended for its commitment to utilizing an innovative and collaborative approach to advancing our nation's transportation network and infrastructure. Thank you for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,



Deb Fischer  
United States Senator

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